AMENDED CLAIM SET:

1. (currently amended) A method for producing a molded article of a modified polytetrafluoroethylene by joining, comprising the steps of:

providing at least two premolded parts of modified polytetrafluoroethylene having different coefficients of thermal shrinkage, wherein each of said at least two premolded parts has a coefficient of thermal shrinkage in the range between 0.2 and 10 %, and wherein the said at least two premolded part are prepared by molding an as-polymerized modified PTFE and by molding a granulated product of the same modified PTFE,

arranging their joining faces to be in contact with each other or to be closely placed, and

sintering the parts to join them at the joining faces.

2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the joining of said at least two premolded parts at the joining faces is carried out without the application of an external pressure.

3. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the difference in the coefficient of thermal shrinkage between two premolded parts which are adjacently placed ranges from 0.2 to 9.8 %.

4. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one premolded part is surrounded by another premolded part having a larger coefficient of thermal shrinkage than that of the premolded part which it surrounds.

5. - 8. (cancelled).

9. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of arranging the joining faces of the premolded parts is conducted in the absence of an adhesive.

10. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein one of the premolded parts is tubular in shape and wherein another of the premolded parts is disk-shaped.

11. (currently amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the tubular premolded part has an internal diameter of from 50-80 mm and wherein the disk-shaped premolded part has ~~an external~~ a diameter corresponding to the internal diameter of the tubular premolded part.

12. (new) A method for producing a molded article of a modified polytetrafluoroethylene by joining, comprising the steps of:

providing at least two premolded parts of modified polytetrafluoroethylene having different coefficients of thermal shrinkage, wherein each of said at least two premolded parts has a coefficient of thermal shrinkage in the range between 0.2 and 10 %, and wherein one of the premolded parts is tubular in shape and wherein another of the premolded parts is disk-shaped,

arranging their joining faces to be in contact with each other or to be closely placed, and

sintering the parts to join them at the joining faces.

13. (new) The method of claim 12, wherein the joining of said at least two premolded parts at the joining faces is carried out without the application of an external pressure.

14. (new) The method of claim 12, wherein the difference in the coefficient of thermal shrinkage between two premolded parts which are adjacently placed ranges from 0.2 to 9.8 %.

15. (new) The method of claim 12, wherein at least one premolded part is surrounded by another premolded part having a larger coefficient of thermal shrinkage than that of the premolded part which it surrounds.

16. (new) The method of claim 12, wherein said at least two premolded parts of modified polytetrafluoroethylene having different coefficients of thermal shrinkage are prepared by (A) separately molding two or more modified PTFE powders having the same molecular weight but different particle sizes or by (B) molding portions of the same modified PTFE powder under different pressures or by (C) molding an as-polymerized modified PTFE and by molding a granulated product of the same modified PTFE.

17. (new) The method of claim 12, wherein said at least two premolded parts of modified polytetrafluoroethylene having different coefficients of thermal shrinkage are prepared by separately molding two or more modified PTFE powders having the same molecular weight but different particle sizes.

18. (new) The method of claim 12, wherein said at least two premolded parts of modified polytetrafluoroethylene having different coefficients of thermal shrinkage are prepared by molding portions of the same modified PTFE powder under different pressures.

19. (new) The method of claim 12, wherein said at least two premolded parts of modified polytetrafluoroethylene having different coefficients of thermal

shrinkage are prepared by molding an as-polymerized modified PTFE and by molding a granulated product of the same modified PTFE.

20. (new) The method of claim 12, wherein the step of arranging the joining faces of the premolded parts is conducted in the absence of an adhesive.

21. (new) The method of claim 12, wherein the tubular premolded part has an internal diameter of from 50-80 mm and wherein the disk-shaped premolded part has a diameter corresponding to the internal diameter of the tubular premolded part.